



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Central Valley Construction Projects – Board issues wet season reminders

– The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued a reminder notice for permittees operating under the Construction General Permit (CGP). The notice describes the overall requirements including the need to implement a sampling and analysis program if soil amendments (such as lime, fly ash etc.) will be exposed to storm water. It also notes that those utilizing chemical systems to enhance sedimentation need to implement Central Valley-specific monitoring requirements. This is because of the potential risk to water quality from the polymers and other chemical additives used in the treatment. Caltrans construction projects are regulated by the Caltrans statewide permit, however, Caltrans implements the technical requirements of the CGP. Notice: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/HomePageAttachments/RainySeason2005.pdf>.

Treatment monitoring: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/HomePageAttachments/AdvTrtmnt2005.pdf>

Agricultural discharges – Central Valley Board extends waiver program –

Most agricultural runoff is exempt from federal (NPDES) permit requirements. However, based on the SWRCB's 2002 305(b) *Report on Water Quality*, agricultural runoff is responsible for the impairment of more rivers and streams than construction and urban runoff combined. Until 2003, agricultural runoff had also avoided significant regulation under the State's Water Code due to waivers issued by the Regional Boards. Without the waivers, facilities with runoff would have been required to apply for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), the state equivalent of NPDES permits.

The situation changed in 2003 when the Central Valley Board implemented a new *conditional* waiver requiring farmers to begin monitoring. The conditional waivers facilitated the establishment of coalition groups that "organize growers to share best management practices, conduct monitoring of rivers and creeks, apply for grants, and work cooperatively toward improving water quality." At its Nov. 28 meeting, the Board renewed the conditional waivers. A major issue considered was the requirement of coalition groups to share the names of the individual farmers involved in monitoring with the Regional Board. CV Board agenda (item #9):

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/tentative/0511/index.html> Article:

<http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051129/NEWS01/511290331&SearchID=73227947587218>

More information (SWRCB): <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/agwaivers/index.html>

Enforcement – Construction project hit with substantial fine - The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Board issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint to the developer of a 1,000 acre project for failure to implement erosion and sediment control measures required by the Construction General Permit. Approximately 1.7 million gallons of turbid and sediment-laden storm water runoff entered a creek. The developer paid \$575,000. See item 1: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/monthly_board_report/0511eo.pdf Article: <http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/13737215p-14579232c.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>